Nawabzada's Speech

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan was given an enthusiastic ovation when he rose to address the Conference at the closing session on the night of December 27. He emphasised the importance of the principles underlying the Pakistan Scheme and how it aimed at justice to all explaining what was meant by 'Pakistan' he said that the stage had been reached when it was no longer necessary, to advance arguments in favour of Pakistan in order to convince Muslims, which was like inviting a Muslim to come into the fold of Islam. He said that Pakistan was an article of faith with every Muslim in India.

He made a fervent appeal for Muslim solidarity and referred to the difficult situation in the country and explained in detail the resolutions passed by the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League the other day. He pointed out that one of the major political parties in India had been trying its utmost to force the British Government to make a fresh declaration in utter disregard of the previous statements and solemn pledges given to the Muslims of India.

Referring to the misleading propaganda carried on by a section of the British Press and politicians, he said that nothing, no amount of false propaganda, would deviate Muslim India from the cherished goal of Pakistan. He made it clear to the British that any departure from the declaration of August 8, would be resisted by Muslim India with all the forces at their command.

War effort

He then dwelt upon the position and attitude of the Muslim League *vis-a-vis* the Congress. He said that the position of the League was quite different from that of the Congress in as much as the country's war efforts, which have so far been largely carried on with the help and support of the Muslims, were due to the policy and attitude hitherto adopted by the Muslim League in order not to embarrass the British Government at this critical juncture. He traced the events of the last two years and explained how the offer the Viceroy that the Congress and the League should come to a settlement was rejected by the Congress on the ground that their demand for Dominion status, which amounted to delivering the Muslim and other nationalities bound hand and foot to the mercy of the Hindus, was not met by the British Government, although the Muslim League was quite prepared to go ahead with the plan of the Viceroy. He expressed his astonishment at the recent appeal made by the Viceroy at Calcutta to all parties in India to reslove the deadlock. He wished the Viceroy had appealed only to the Congress who alone were responsible for the deadlock.

Referring Mr. Fazlul Huq the Nawabzada said that the Muslim nation had been relieved of a "confirmed traitor" and advised the Muslims of Bengal not to rest content until Mr. Huq was relegated to obscurity. Here Mr. Jinnah also joined the Nawabzada and said that the sooner the Muslims of Bengal did away with that figurehead the better.

Referring to Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan's arrest the Nawabzada hoped that the Government would soon take steps to release him, having regard to various circumstances and to prevent political unrest among the Muslims of the province. Lastly he appealed to the Musalmans of the Central Provinces and Berar to sin kall their personal differences and conserve all their energy for the good and prosperitv of their Muslim brethren in their province. He said that unless they were all united and spoke with one voice, one heart and one soul they would not be in a position to render any valuable help to the Musalmans in the achievement of their goal—*Pakistan.*

No Declaration Against Pakistan

League Warning To British Government

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETS AT NAGPUR

The Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League which met at Nagpur (C. P.) on Friday and Saturday, December 26 and 27 last, under the presidentship of Mr. M. A. Jinnah, adopted the following resolutions :

Resolutiou No. 1.

The Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League have read with satisfaction the statement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 15th of December 1941, at Calcutta, reaffirming the policy enunciated in the declaration of the 8th of August 1940, which laid down *inter alia* the following principle for the future constitution of India :—

"There are two main points which have emerged. On those two points His Majesty's Government now desire me to make their position clear.

"The first is as to the position of minorities, in relation to any future constitutional scheme. It has already been made clear that my declaration of last October does not exclude the examination of any part, either of the Act of 1935, or of the policy and plan on which it is based.

"His Majesty's Government's concern, that full weight should be given to the views of the minorities in any revision, has also been brought out.

That remains the position of His Majesty's Government. It goes without saying that they could not contemplate the transfer of their present responsibilities, for the peace and welfare of India, to any system of Government whose authority is directly denied by large and powerful elements in India's national life.

"Nor could they be parties to the coercion of such elements into submission to such a Government."

His Excellency further made it clear in the declaration of the 8th of August 1940, that it was for the representatives of India themselves to reach a basis of friendly agreement, firstly on the form which the post-war representative body should take and secondly upon the principles and outlines of the constitution itself.

This policy of the British Government was re-affirmed by the Secretary of State for India in his speech during the debate in the House of Commons on the 22nd of April 1941, in the following words :—

"What was the essence of that statement?

It was that the frame-work of India's future constitution should be devised by Indians themselves and not by this House. That was a far-reaching and, indeed, revolutionary announcement, the full importance of which has not, I think even yet been fully appreciated either in this country or in India."..... Even more important in this connection in the stipulation that the constitution itself, and also the body which is to frame it, must be the outcome of agreement between the principal elements in India's national life. That is an essential prerequisite to the success of the future constitution."

The Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League in their meeting held on the 22nd of September 1940 expressed their satisfaction at the declaration, as the principles enunciated therein covered the consideration

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